

## **FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** October 8, 2015

**Agenda Item:** Waters Approved for Commercial Bait Seining – Annual Rule

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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### **Background**

A bait fish seining license is required for: 1) persons 15 years of age and older to seine for and transport bait fish for commercial purposes in Montana; and 2) for any person who seines for and has in their possession more than 24 dozen non-game bait fish. The Commission may designate waters that are allowed for these purposes, and FWP describes these waters annually in the Commercial Bait Seining Application form.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

If approved by the Commission, the current list of approved waters will be released for a 15-day public comment period. Based on the comments received, the list will be modified (if necessary) and proposed to the Commission for final approval in November.

### **Alternatives and Analysis.**

The proposed list is identical to waters approved for Commercial Bait Seining in 2015.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

Evaluation by biologists and Fisheries program managers confirmed that waters in the current list can still support commercial bait seining, as previously approved by the Commission.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move that the Commission propose the Commercial Bait Fish Seining Waters list recommended by FWP and initiate the public involvement process.